

ST. JOHN SCHOOL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Continue the Legacy...



VISION

Generation after generation of caring faculty, loyal alumni, dedicated parents and engaged students have made St. John a beacon of learning and faith in our community. Preserving this legacy requires constant dedication.

Recognizing that a comprehensive approach to planning the future of St. John was needed, **the school embarked on a strategic planning process in 2015**. This process included a comprehensive review of all school facilities and a look into the future involving school administration, faculty, parents, support organizations, board members, the finance committee, community leaders, students and our architectural team.

Based on the outcome of that planning process, **St. John now embarks on the most ambitious Capital Campaign in its 165-year history**. By renewing our campus, we ensure the foundation for generations of students to enjoy an exceptional learning environment that enriches and inspires them, and provides them with the moral compass to be a blessing to the world.

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

Nelson Henderson





NEED

The development of St. John's Strategic Plan marks the first time since the high school and the gymnasium were built in the 1950s and 1960s that a comprehensive "whole school" plan has been developed. Over the years, spot improvements have been made, but even the "newer" elementary and middle school facilities have maintenance issues.

Tuition pays for educating the child, but it does not fund maintenance and improvements to the now aging campus. The review of St. John's campus revealed needs in three focus areas: safety and connectivity, technology and academic infrastructure, and recreation and student life. Fortunately, the school has had early donors to the Capital Campaign who have funded much needed elementary school improvements including a new roof, enclosure of exterior restrooms, and a new HVAC system.

However, extensive renovations and enhancements are still needed to meet technology and academic infrastructure modalities, to provide student enrichment facilities, and to ensure the school's functionality in the future.

THE PLAN

Projects to be completed on a priority basis, depending on Capital Campaign funding*:

GYMNASIUM:

Complete renovation including air conditioning, new roofing, new flooring, renovation of locker rooms, new sound system, new concession stand

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING:

Complete renovation, including re-purposing second floor for additional instructional space, new HVAC, renovation of restrooms and offices, and technology upgrades

LIBRARY/INFORMATION CENTER:

The existing libraries have been consolidated to a central location for all grades, but technology and other upgrades are needed to provide a more functional and inviting space for students

ENRICHMENT WING:

This wing will be located in the same building as the library, and will include needed upgrades, facility renovations, and added sound and technology equipment to house the existing arts, music, technology, library and Makerspace programs

CAFETERIA:

HVAC upgrades

*This highlights major projects, but is not a comprehensive list of all scheduled improvements.

OUTDOOR SPACES & LANDSCAPING:

Extensive improvements to outdoor spaces to including courtyards, a parking area on the side of campus, a safety boundary for the playground, middle school and high school quads for connectivity and unity on the campus

RECENTLY COMPLETED:

Thanks to some early donations to the Capital Campaign, much needed improvements have been completed at the elementary school, including a new roof, enclosure of exterior elementary restrooms, and a new HVAC system



THE ST. JOHN CAMPUS MASTER PLAN







It is now our responsibility - our great privilege - to take up the challenge of keeping St. John School a vital educational and spiritual beacon for generations to come.











ST. JOHN SCHOOL A HISTORY RICH IN FAITH, DEDICATION, TRADITION

In 1853, Catholic education was established in Plaquemine under the leadership of Father Charles Chambost, Pastor of St. John Church. He founded the College of the Immaculate Conception and a separate boys' school. This college was incorporated and authorized to grant BA and BS degrees by the State of Louisiana.

In 1857, Father Chambost engaged the services of the Marianite Sisters of the Holy Cross, who came to Plaquemine to set up a school for girls, St. Basil's Academy. In 1858, the college, the boys' school, and St. John Church was destroyed by fire. Father Chambost was financially unable to rebuild. Heartbroken, he returned to France, and Catholic education here struggled with starts and stops until the early 1900s.

Attendance at St. Basil's and St. John School for Boys grew rapidly in the 1900's, with the old St. Basil's (the building next to St. John Church) built in 1910. Under the direction of Monsignor Leonard Robin, Catholic education flourished. In 1933, St. John Free School for Boys and St. Basil's Academy merged to form the present day St. John School.

Monsignor Robin bought the property where the schools are located today. The gymnasium was built and used for classrooms while the high school was being built. The high school, under the direction of the Marianite Sisters, was dedicated in 1960. The elementary school was opened in the fall of 1967.

St. John has survived fires, yellow fever, epidemics, wars, the Depression, and other financial hardships. Today, St. John's rich history and tradition are alive and well with an active and dedicated alumni, faculty, staff and student body.



ST. JOHN SCHOOL

ADMINISTRATION

Pastor: Rev. Gregory J. Daigle
Principal: Cherie B. Schlatre

MISSION

St. John School provides a disciplined, nurturing environment guided by Catholic values, where students grow through rigorous academic experiences, faith and moral formation, and opportunities for service and leadership.

MOTTO

In Cruce Salus (In the cross, there is salvation)

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Cover photos by Olivia Ledet, Class of 2017 Interior renderings by Bani, Carville & Brown Architects, Henry Carville, Class of 1971

